

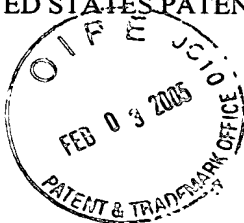
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:
Mikhail KOROLIK et al.

Application No.: 10/817,398

Filed: April 1, 2004

For: CONTROLS OF AMBIENT ENVIRONMENT
DURING WAFER DRYING PROXIMITY HEAD



) Group Art Unit: 1746

) Examiner: Unassigned

) Atty. Docket No. LAM2P467

) Date: January 31, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 31, 2005.

Signed: _____

Sylvia Castillo

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The references listed in the attached PTO Form 1449, (the copies of references which are not U.S. Patents have been attached), may be material to examination of the above-identified patent application. Applicants submit these references in compliance with their duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and 1.97. The Examiner is requested to consider these references and to acknowledge such consideration by initialing the appropriate location on the attached PTO Form 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that these references indeed constitute prior art.

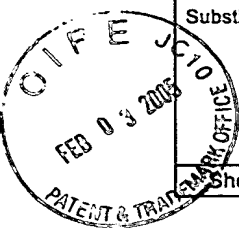
References I and J on sheet two of Form 1449 are in the Japanese language. The relevance of References I and J may be ascertained by reviewing the corresponding English language abstract. References G, H and I on sheet three of Form 1449 are in the Japanese language. The relevance of References G, H and I may be ascertained by reviewing the corresponding English language abstract.

This IDS is believed to be filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action. Accordingly, it is believed that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this IDS. However, if it is determined that any fees are due, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-0805 (Order No. LAM2P467).

Respectfully submitted,
MARTINE & PENILLA, LLP

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Reg. No. 46,938

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Customer Number 25920



Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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|-------|---|----|---|------------------------|----------|
| Sheet | 1 | of | 3 | Attorney Docket Number | LAM2P467 |
|-------|---|----|---|------------------------|----------|

Complete if Known

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|----------------------|------------------------|
| Application Number | 10/817,398 |
| Filing Date | April 1, 2004 |
| First Named Inventor | Mikhail KOROLIK et al. |
| Art Unit | 1746 |
| Examiner Name | Unassigned |

U.S. Patent Documents

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | A | 2002/0121290 A1 | 9/5/02 | TANG et al. | |
| | B | 2002/0125212 A1 | 9/12/02 | MERTENS et al. | |
| | C | US 6,341,998 B1 | 1/29/02 | ZHANG | |
| | D | US 6,391,166 B1 | 5/21/02 | WANG | |
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| | F | 5,807,522 | 9/15/98 | BROWN et al. | |

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|------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|
| | | Country Code ³ -Number- ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | G | EP 0 905 746 A1 | 3/31/99 | Interniversitair Micro-Elektronica Centrum VZW | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | H | EP 0 905 747 A1 | 3/31/99 | Interniversitair Micro-Elektronica Centrum VZW | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | I | WO 99/16109 A1 | 4/1/99 | Interniversitair Micro-Elektronica Centrum VZW | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | J | WO 02/001613 A3 | 1/3/02 | Applied Materials, Inc. | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Non Patent Literature Documents

| Examiner Initial | Cite No. | Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published |
|------------------|----------|--|
| | K | J.A. BRITTEN, "A moving-zone Marangoni drying process for critical cleaning and wet processing," October, 1997, <i>Solid State Technology</i> |
| | L | |

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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

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| Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | Complete if Known | |
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| | | | | First Named Inventor | Mikhail KOROLIK et al. |
| | | | | Art Unit | 1746 |
| Examiner Name | Unassigned | | | | |
| Sheet | 2 | of | 3 | Attorney Docket Number | LAM2P467 |

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| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | A | 5,830,334 | 11/3/98 | KOBAYASHI | |
| | B | 5,882,433 | 3/16/99 | UENO | |
| | C | 5,975,098 | 11/2/99 | YOSHITANI et al. | |
| | D | 5,989,478 | 11/23/99 | OUELLETTE et al. | |
| | E | 6,132,586 | 10/17/00 | ADAMS et al. | |
| | F | 6,531,206 | 3/11/03 | JOHNSTON et al. | |

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| Examiner Initial | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document No. | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|
| | | Country Code ³ -Number- ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | G | WO 02/32825 A1 | 4/25/02 | The Regents of the University of California | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | H | WO 02/101795 A3 | 12/19/02 | Verteq, Inc. | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | I | JP08277486 (Patent Abstract in English provided) | 10/22/96 | Dainippon Printing Co. Ltd. | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | J | JP05837190 (Patent Abstract in English provided) | 03/04/83 | Sonitsukusu: KK | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Non Patent Literature Documents

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¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

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| | | | | Art Unit | 1746 |
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| Sheet | 3 | of | 3 | Attorney Docket Number | LAM2P467 |

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|------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|
| | | Country Code ³ -Number- ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | G | JP02280330 (Patent Abstract in English provided) | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | H | JP02309638 (Patent Abstract in English provided) | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | I | JP11350169 (Patent Abstract in English provided) | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | J | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Non Patent Literature Documents

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